

## IOWA POLL

Selzer & Company

800 Iowa adults

Margin of error:  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points

Includes 650 likely voters

Margin of error on likely voter questions:  $\pm 3.8$  percentage points

Study #2057

September 23-26, 2012

Weighted by age

How likely is it you will vote in the November general election for president and other offices—will you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, or probably not vote?

Definitely vote	Probably vote	Might or might not vote	Probably not vote	Refused/ Not sure
79	12	4	5	-

If the election for president were held today and the candidates were [BARACK OBAMA FOR THE DEMOCRATS/MITT ROMNEY FOR THE REPUBLICANS], for whom would you vote—[BARACK OBAMA/MITT ROMNEY] or for someone else? **(Rotate candidate names.)**

**(Ask only of those who do not name a candidate):** Toward which candidate would you say you are leaning, or support the most?

<b>Asked only of likely voters: n=650. MoE: <math>\pm 3.8</math> percentage points</b>	<b>Q.2a First Choice</b>	<b>Q.2b Leaning (Based on all)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Barack Obama	49	-	<b>49</b>
Mitt Romney	44	1	<b>45</b>
Someone else	4	-	<b>4</b>
Not sure	3	2	<b>2</b>

Would you say your mind is made up, or could you still be persuaded to vote for another candidate?

**Asked only of likely voters who named a candidate as first choice or lean. By adding in the no first choice option, based on all likely voters: n=650. MoE:  $\pm 3.8$  percentage points**

<b>LV</b>	<b>Obama supporters</b>	<b>Romney supporters</b>	
87	91	89	Mind is made up
10	8	11	Could still be persuaded to vote for another candidate
1	1	-	Not sure
2	-	-	No first choice

Regardless of which candidate you support, would [BARACK OBAMA or MITT ROMNEY] do the best job of: **(Rotate candidate names. Read each item and repeat question. Rotate list.)**

Which one or two of these is MOST important? **(Read words in bold.)**

<b>Asked only of likely voters: n=650. MoE: ± 3.8 percentage points</b>						
	Obama	Romney	Neither (VOL)	Both (VOL)	Not Sure	Most Imp.
Fixing the <b>economy</b>	47	46	3	1	3	59
Reducing the <b>federal budget deficit</b>	40	51	5	-	4	27
Determining the future of <b>Medicare</b>	50	42	3	-	5	12
Determining the future of <b>health care</b>	49	41	3	1	6	31
Handling <b>relations with other countries</b>	52	41	2	1	4	8
Determining <b>tax policy</b>	49	43	3	-	5	10
Handling the <b>military engagement in Afghanistan and tension in the Middle East</b>	49	41	4	-	6	14
None of these/not sure						2

Regardless of which candidate you support, do you think [MITT ROMNEY or BARACK OBAMA]: **(Rotate candidate names. Read each item and repeat question. Rotate list.)**

<b>Asked only of likely voters: n=650. MoE: ± 3.8 percentage points</b>				
	Obama	Romney	Neither (VOL)	Not Sure
Cares the most about people like you	53	38	5	4
Is the most honest	48	37	9	6
Would be more likely to bring about real change	46	44	5	5
Would be more likely to bring Republicans and Democrats together	38	39	17	6
Is a strong leader	50	43	2	5
Has run the least negative campaign	41	35	14	10

For each of the following groups, I'd like you to tell me which of the two major presidential teams does a better job of caring about their needs and concerns —[BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN] or [MITT ROMNEY AND PAUL RYAN], or neither. **(Read list. Rotate.)**

<b>Asked only of likely voters: n=650. MoE: ± 3.8 percentage points</b>				
	Obama/Biden	Romney/Ryan	Neither	Not Sure
Women	56	32	6	6
Veterans	45	39	7	9
The middle class	54	38	6	2
Businesses	34	59	4	3
Minorities	64	24	7	5
Retirees	49	37	8	6

**(Rotate Q.7 and Q.8 every other interview.)**

As Mitt Romney's running mate, do you think Paul Ryan is more of an asset or more of a liability?

**Asked only of likely voters: n=650. MoE: ± 3.8 percentage points**

56 Asset  
36 Liability  
8 Not sure

As Barack Obama's running mate, do you think Joe Biden is more of an asset or more of a liability?

Asked only of likely voters: n=650. MoE: ± 3.8 percentage points

43	Asset
47	Liability
10	Not sure

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
40	54	6

What about here in Iowa? Do you think things in the state are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
60	31	9

Compared to four years ago, would you say you are now better off financially, worse off, or about the same?

Better off	Worse off	About the same	Not sure
28	30	42	-

I'm going to mention some elected officials. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling his job. **(Rotate list.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Terry Branstad as governor	54	35	11
Tom Harkin as U.S. Senator	54	30	16
Charles Grassley as U.S. Senator	62	23	15
Matt Schultz, Iowa Secretary of State	40	10	50
David Wiggins, Iowa Supreme Court justice	34	23	43

I'm going to mention some major political figures. For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough to answer, just say so. **(Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)**

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Barack Obama, president of the United States	30	24	14	29	3
Mitt Romney, Republican candidate for president	20	24	19	32	5
Ron Paul, congressman from Texas and former candidate for the Republican nomination	17	27	26	11	19
Paul Ryan, Republican candidate for vice-president	22	24	16	25	13
Joe Biden, Democratic candidate for vice-president	18	27	19	26	10

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

**(Follow with:)** Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing: **(Rotate items after job as president.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
His job as president	51	47	2
With the economy	45	50	5
With health care	45	50	5
With relations with other countries	50	43	7
With the budget deficit	33	60	7
With his handling of the war in Afghanistan	54	39	7

Experts say the Medicare system will run out of money to pay claims within the next 12 years. There are three general approaches to address this issue. Which of the following do you think would do the most good to make Medicare more financially stable? **(Read list. Rotate.)**

- 45 Change the way Medicare works to provide seniors with the option of a subsidy to help pay for regular health insurance in the private market
- 26 Increase how much workers pay into the system
- 9 Reduce the benefits the program covers
- 20 Not sure

What do you think does more to strengthen the U.S. economy: Preferences to the middle class so they can become more prosperous and create demand for goods and services which will result in new jobs, or preferences to businesses so entrepreneurs and investors will create new businesses and jobs?

- 56 Preferences to middle class
- 34 Preferences to businesses
- 10 Not sure

In 2008, did you vote in the presidential contest between Barack Obama and John McCain? **(If yes, ask:)** For whom did you vote—Barack Obama, John McCain, or someone else?

- 44 Voted for Barack Obama
- 34 Voted for John McCain
- 2 Voted for someone else
- 18 Did not vote
- 2 Not sure

Iowans will vote whether to retain four of Iowa's Supreme Court justices on the November ballot. One is a justice on the court when it ruled that the Iowa Constitution allows same-sex marriage, David Wiggins. Will you vote yes to retain this justice or no to remove him?

**Asked only of likely voters: n=650. MoE: ± 3.8 percentage points**

- 49 Yes to retain
- 41 No to remove
- 1 Will not vote (VOL)
- 9 Not sure

What about the other three justices who are new to the court? Will you vote to retain all three, vote to remove one or two, or remove all three? **Asked only of likely voters: n=650. MoE: ± 3.8 percentage points**

- 49 Retain all three
- 7 Remove one or two
- 10 Remove all three
- 2 Will not vote (VOL)
- 32 Not sure